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DECEMBER 1972 \_\_\_\_FEDERAL XSTATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STATE OFFICE BUILDING

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

INDIANA HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CITY, TOWN STATE

### CONDITION

Xexcellent

\_\_GOOD \_\_\_RUINS

\_\_FAIR

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_DETERIORATED

### **CHECK ONE**

Xunaltered

\_\_ALTERED

#### CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED

DATE

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wylie Home is today restored to its original appearance of 1835, (the date of its completion). It is a house of the late Federal Period reflecting certain design concepts carried west from Washington, Pennsylvania, by its owner Dr. Andrew Wylie. The house is located on high ground with good natural drainage overlooking the countryside surrounding Bloomington, Indiana.

The building was constructed of handmade brick, molded and fired on the site, and rests on a foundation of limestone from a nearby quarry. Major exterior walls are laid in a bonded brick pattern with a grapevine type mortar joint. The main facade of the house facing south, (unlike the rest of the elevations), exhibits brick coursing in a Flemish Bond, whereas west, north and east elevations and a recessed porch are laid in running bond with a header course every sixth course. All window and door heads are laid in a tapered jack arch pattern, four courses of brick high or approximately 12", splayed out approximately 2" directly above the jambs.

The foundation stone above grade is tooled and finished on the main facade, whereas all other elevations have been laid in a rubble pattern. There is no stoop at the front entrance, however, limestone steps lead directly to the doorway and are hand tooled and dressed on all edges. Window sills are 3-1/2" thick poplar, projecting beyond the brick work with a drip cut on the underside. Shutters are the slat type single panel hung with hand wrought hinges, anchored into the masonry jambs.

The roof which is approximately a 5/12 pitch is covered with smooth shingles hand split on the site, as was the case when the house was originally constructed. Shingles are yellow poplar approximately 24" long and 1/2" at the exposed butt end. There is a flat, deck on the main part of the house, bounded at gable ends by a pair of twin chimneys, with wooden balusters and handrail on opposite sides. A scuttle from the 3rd floor area leads to the roof deck, which was used by Dr. Wylie during his study of astronomy. The deck is covered in copper. Gutters are built onto the roof and are supported by wooden brackets approximately 30" on center. The downspouts project through the roof and soffit of the box cornice.

The building includes an east wing to the house, with a two story high frame porch facing front (south), together with two small rooms of frame construction terminating the porch on the east extremity.

The main section of the house includes two parlors on the first floor, entered from a central hallway, running from front to back and includes the main stairway to the second floor. To the right of the main hall is an entrance to the dining room and from that to the kitchen on the east end of the building. Between the kitchen and dining room is a stair well, one to the basement, over which is a service stairway to the second floor. The second floor plan is a duplication of the first, providing four bedroom facilities. The third level or loft also provided additional sleeping area and an access to the roof deck.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Interior details of the building are more elaborate on the first floor and become less important subdued on the third level. Each room in the house except on the third level has a fireplace. Mantle details in all rooms on the first floor except kitchen are similar in concept, but vary in detail. Door and window casings are made up of several units utilizing plinths as a base for door trim. There are two types of rosettes at the heads. The more elaborate rosette is a hand carved pattern resembling a four leaf clover and the lesser design a simple turned rosette. All woodwork and trim throughout is native Indiana yellow poplar painted. Flooring is 1 x 6 hand planed tongue and groove yellow poplar. Wood lath is hand split and the original plaster is reinforced with animal hair. Unfortunately, only small areas of original plaster were salvageable.

The door locks are the box or rim type, with elbow latches by Carpenter and Company of London, England. Locks were original, but restored by Donald Streeter & Co. of New York.

The building is strictly a house museum, a memorial to Dr. Andrew Wylie, First President of Indiana University. The building is open to the public at designated times and for special events. The modern heating of the house is by electric radiant heat with coils consealed in the ceiling plaster. There is no obvious intrusion of modern mechanical equipment. Everything is hidden except small sensing units for temperature control.

The building is furnished with original pieces from Andrew Wylie's family and includes his personal library as well as art work and other artifacts belonging to the Wylie's. Before restoration intensive research took place and the results have provided excellent documentation both pertainint to the history of the family and Dr. Wylie, as well as the building and its construction. The records include original bills of sale for numerous items used in the building and also the original hand written contract between Dr. Wylie and the contractor:

The restoration took place between 1961 and 1965, with Edward D. James, FAIA, commissioned as Architect for the restoration and H. Roll McLaughlin, FAIA, as Project Architect. Construction was under the direction of Mr. John Dickson, who served as Clerk-of-the-Works who personally executed by hand much of the trim and millwork throughout the building, using vintage tools and material salvaged from a structure of the same period. Mary Brown Craig, archivist for Indiana University, served as consultant for interior furnishings and artifacts. Dr. Herman B Wells, Chancellor, headed the restoration committee representing the owner, The Trustees of Indiana University.

### **8** SIGNIFICANCE

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wylie House has importance concerning its architecture, the early history of its area, and education. The beauty and elegance of its Federal type architecture has been noted in the preceding item. One of the earliest examples of such architecture in its part of Indiana, Bloomington, was less than two decades old when Wylie House was built. Although the Daniel Stout House (Old Stone House), already on the National Register, was erected a short time earlier, it is located outside of Bloomington. Wylie House is among the few buildings remaining in Bloomington which have any connection with the 1830's. Moreover, it is the only important structure from this decade which has been carefully restored and is in an excellent state of preservation.

Andrew Wylie and Wylie House are of great significance regarding the history of education in Indiana. Although Indiana State Seminary had been opened to students about 1825 (strange to say the exact year is in dispute), it had no president until Wylie was so named in 1829, by which time it was known as Indiana College. Wylie, who had been president of first Jefferson College and then Washington College in western Pennsylvania, remained president (Indiana University from 1838) until his death in 1851. Wylie House is the oldest surviving structure directly associated with Indiana University. Indiana University's growth was slow, as for western universities generally in the pioneer era, but it continued its educational program without interruption, making it the oldest state university in the Middle West in terms of its continuous operation. President Wylie's efforts were largely devoted to the development of Indiana University, but he also played an active role, with Caleb Mills and others, in sustaining the movement for free common schools and he from time to time gave important public addresses to church, historical, and other groups.

Many prominent men were associated with or students at Indiana University while Wylie was its president. Among them were: Joseph A. Wright, later governor, United States Senator, and minister to Prussia; William H. Dailey, president of Indiana University, 1853–1859; Addison Locke Roache, judge of the Indiana Supreme Court; George Grover Wright, chief justice of Iowa Supreme Court and United States Senator from Iowa; and Judge David McDonald of the United States Circuit Court.

Professor Thomas D. Clark, current author of a three volume history of Indiana University and former president of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (an Organization of American Historians) has evaluated Wylie in these words:

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"For over two decades Andrew Wylie had been the predominant personal force in the formation of Indiana College and University. Following with Calvinistic fidelity his precept of personifying the university, he had served the institution as spokesman, scholar, and fathermaster. Wylie was Indiana University's first publishing scholar. Stooped over his desk evenings at home at Second and Lincoln streets, he prepared long and involved commencement and public addresses, which were later published. He demonstrated both thoughtfulness and erudition".

(Thomas D. Clark, Indiana University: Midwestern Pioneer. Volume I, The Early Years. Indiana University Press: Bloomington, 1970, p. 74).

D.F.C.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGI	RAPHICAL REFER	ENCES	Ý	
<ol> <li>Thomas D. Clark, II.</li> <li>(Volume III, concer</li> <li>Samuel Bannister Ho</li> </ol>	ndiana University: Mid ndiana University: Mid ning period about 1938 arding, Indiana Universi History of Education in	western Pionee - 1960's, is at ty, 1820-1904	(1904).	(1970). (1973).
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